

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated A rice-derived promoter consisting of ~~the following DNA~~ (a) or (b):

———(a) DNA that consists of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~or SEQ ID NO: 10; or~~

~~(b) DNA that hybridizes under stringent conditions with DNA consisting of a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 10 and that expresses stress-inducible promoter activity.~~

2. (Original) The promoter according to claim 1, wherein the stress is dehydration stress, low temperature stress, or salt stress.

3. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the promoter according to claim 1.

4. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 3, wherein structural genes coding sequences and/or regulatory coding sequences genes for enhancing stress tolerance are contained so as to be functional under the control of the promoter according to claim 1.

5. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 4, wherein the structural coding sequences genes and/or regulatory coding sequences genes for enhancing stress tolerance are selected from the group consisting of the P5CS (delta-1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate synthase) gene, which is a key enzyme for proline synthesis, the AtGolS3 (arabidopsis thaliana galactinol synthase3) gene for galactinol synthesis, the Arabidopsis thaliana-derived DREB (dehydration responsive element binding protein) transcription factor gene, the rice-derived OsDREB (oryza sativa dehydration responsive element binding protein) transcription factor gene, and the NCED (9-cis-epoxycarotenoid dioxygenase) gene, which is an enzyme involved in the synthesis of ABA (abscisic acid).

6. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 5, wherein the structural coding sequences ~~genes~~ and/or regulatory coding sequences ~~genes~~ for enhancing stress tolerance are the rice-derived OsDREB (oryza sativa dehydration responsive element binding protein) transcription factor genes.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing stress tolerance of a plant, compared with a wild type of the plant, said method comprises: by introducing the vector according to claim 4 ~~promoter according to claim 1~~ into the plant.

11. (Previously presented) A recombinant vector comprising the promoter according to claim 2.

12. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 11, wherein structural coding sequences ~~genes~~ and/or regulatory coding sequences ~~genes~~ for enhancing stress tolerance are contained so as to be functional under the control of the promoter according to claim 2.

13. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing stress tolerance of a plant, compared with a wild type of the plant, said method comprises: by introducing the vector according to claim 5 ~~promoter according to claim 2~~ into the plant.

14-19. (Canceled)

20. (New): The method of claim 10, wherein the plant is a monocotyledonous plant.

21. (New): The method of claim 13, wherein the plant is a monocotyledonous plant.